

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 ✓ 1. In an information device having a CPU, display
2 controller and a display panel, said display panel split
3 logically into sub-panels, an apparatus comprising:
4 a plurality of segment drivers coupled between said display
5 panel and said display controller, said segment drivers receiving
6 input data from said controller, said segment drivers translating
7 said data into pixels displayable on said display panel; and
8 a power control block coupled to said CPU and to said
9 segment drivers to disable a first power source which powers down
10 a first set of said segment drivers, said powering down disabling
11 a first set of sub-panels of said display panel from outputting
12 pixels, said power control block disabling said first power
13 source upon receiving a command from said CPU that said first set
14 of sub-panels are to be powered down, said information device
15 functioning as one of a cellular communications device and a
16 personal digital assistant, said first set of sub-panels
17 displaying information relevant to said personal digital
18 assistant function, further wherein said display panel includes a
19 second set of sub-panels displaying information relevant to said
20 cellular communications function.

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1 2. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said power
2 control block disables a second power source which powers down a
3 second set of said segment drivers, said powering down disabling
4 a second set of sub-panels from outputting pixels, said power
5 control block disabling said second power source upon receiving a
6 command from said CPU that said second set of sub-panels are to
7 be powered down.

1 3. An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said first
2 power source and said second power source are independently
3 switched by said power-control block to enable outputting of
4 pixels on said first set of sub-panels and said second set of
5 sub-panels, respectively.

1 4. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said
2 information device has a normally open latch, said power control
3 block to disable said first power source when said latch is
4 closed.

1 5. In an information device having a CPU, display
2 controller, and two display panels, an apparatus comprising:
3 a first set of segment drivers coupled to said display
4 controller to receive as input a first set of data, said first
5 set of segment drivers translating said first set of data into
6 pixels output on a first of said display panels;

7 a second set of segment drivers coupled to said display
8 controller and said first set of segment drivers to receive a
9 second set of data, said second set of segment drivers
10 translating said second set of data into pixels output on a
11 second of said display panels; and
12 a power control block coupled to said CPU and to said first
13 and second set of segment drivers to disable a first power source
14 which powers down said second set of segment drivers, said
15 powering down disabling said second display panel from outputting
16 pixels, said information device functioning as one of a cellular
17 communications device and a personal digital assistant, said
18 second display panel displaying information relative to said
19 personal digital assistant function, further wherein said first
20 display panel displaying information relevant to said cellular
21 communications function.

1 6. An apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said power
2 control block disables a second power source which powers down
3 said first set of segment drivers, said powering down disabling
4 said first display panel.

1 7. An information device having a single display panel
2 logically split into a first and second sub-panel, said device
3 comprising:

4 a top shell including a top inner shell and a top outer
5 shell, said top outer shell on the opposing side of said top
6 inner shell, said top inner shell containing said display panel;
7 a joint coupled to said top shell for folding said device;
8 and
9 a bottom shell coupled to said top shell through said joint,
10 said bottom shell including a bottom inner shell and a bottom
11 outer shell, said bottom outer shell on the opposing side of said
12 bottom inner shell, said bottom shell having an open area,
13 wherein said open area leaves visible said first sub-panel and
14 hides said second sub-panel when said device is closed about said
15 joint, wherein when said device is closed, a first power signal
16 is disabled to power down said second sub-panel and a second
17 power signal is enabled to power said first sub-panel, said
18 information device functioning as one of a cellular
19 communications device and a personal digital assistant, said
20 second sub-panel displaying information relevant to said personal
21 digital assistant function, and said first sub-panel displaying
22 information relevant to said cellular communications function.

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1 8. An information device according to claim 7 wherein when
2 said device is open, said first signal is enabled to power said
3 second sub-panel and said second power signal is enabled to power
4 said first sub-panel.

1 9. An information device according to claim 7 wherein said
2 information device is capable of performing a certain function
3 when closed about said joint, said function monitored through
4 said open area.

1 / 10. An information device having a two separate display
2 panels, each display panel on separate physical planes, said
3 device comprising:

4 a top shell including a top inner shell and a top outer
5 shell, said top outer shell on the opposing side of said top
6 inner shell, said top inner shell containing both said display
7 panels;

8 a joint coupled to said top shell for folding said device;
9 and

10 a bottom shell coupled to said top shell through said joint
11 including a bottom inner shell and a bottom outer shell, said
12 bottom outer shell on the opposing side of said bottom inner
13 shell, said bottom shell having an open area, wherein said open
14 area leaves visible said first display panel and hides said
15 second display panel when said device is closed about said joint,
16 wherein when said device is closed, a first power signal is
17 disabled to power down said second display panel and a second
18 power signal is enabled to power said first display panel, said
19 information device functioning as one of a cellular
20 communications device and a personal digital assistant, said
21 second display panel displaying information relevant to said

22 personal digital assistant function, and said first display panel
23 displaying information relevant to said cellular communications
24 function.

1 11. An information device according to claim 10 wherein
2 when said device is open, said first power signal is enabled to
3 power said second display panel and said second power signal is
4 enabled to power said first display panel